

# Idaho Currents

## Regional Manufactured Home Program Certifies Quality, Efficiency

For the past 14 years a good portion of the manufactured homes built in Idaho and surrounding states have been more energy efficient and more comfortable, thanks to the Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Home program.

NEEM™ is a regional cooperative energy conservation effort between the manufactured home industry, the utility companies, and state energy offices in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana. The program involves inspection and certification of homes built to the Super Good Cents and Energy Star® standards.

"These are the most energy-efficient manufactured homes offered by the industry in the nation," says Bob Minter, senior energy specialist with the Energy Division and Idaho's NEEM program manager.

### Quality control

Highly qualified NEEM inspectors review every manufactured home so the efficiency measures required by the program are realized in the plant. State energy officials work directly with quality control managers on the line to make sure every home is certified according to SGC and Energy Star standards.

Energy efficiency doesn't stop at the plant. Each home is installed according to program specifications, ensuring that every detail of the home performs as designed. Should there be an energy-related problem with a NEEM

certified home, state energy officials work with manufacturers, retailers and utilities to find the solution.

"More than 150,000 of these certified energy-efficient homes have been produced in the Pacific Northwest under the program since 1992, resulting in lower utility bills and more comfort for the home buyers," Minter adds. "It's a very successful cooperative regional program and a win-win for the entire region."

"The cumulative savings have a huge impact," says Ken Eklund, principal energy specialist. "It's building a 100 megawatt power plant for pennies on the dollar one home at a time – a plant that needs no fuel, that produces most when it's coldest or hottest outside, and puts no carbon dioxide or other pollution into the air."

Homes constructed to meet the NEEM standards typically use about 30 percent less energy to heat and cool compared to those built to the minimum standards required by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development



**Sheathing is attached to the roof of an Energy Star manufactured home being constructed inside the Champion manufactured home plant in Weiser. (Photo by Bob Minter)**

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# State Reaps Energy Savings In Boise

By Linda Anderson, *NW Current News*

The state of Idaho is expected to save about \$252,000 annually over 17 years following completion of an energy performance contract with Siemens. Started in September 2004, the state's Capitol Mall Energy Performance Contract covered almost 1 million square feet in 14 buildings on the state government's Boise campus.

David Naccarato, account executive with Siemens Energy and Environmental Solutions in Boise, said the total project cost about \$3.6 million, including financing costs. But the measures are expected to annually save more than 4 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, 5,000 kilowatts (kW) of demand charges, almost 7 million gallons of domestic water, and another 5 million gallons of purchased geothermal water. The campus is heated by a geothermal network installed in the late 1970s.

"Most of the savings came from lighting because of geothermal," said Ric Johnston, facility services manager with Idaho's Department of Administration. "The geothermal system, which is like free heat, made finding savings more challenging."

An investment grade audit outlined the scope of the project and identified conservation and facility improvement measures. Facility improvement measures are those that could not be justified on energy savings alone, but that offer other benefits.

"Comfort is an example, and health is a big one – especially in schools," Naccarato said. We create a blend of measures. The goal is the whole project has revenue neutrality, where the savings will pay for the project itself."

Lighting retrofits are expected to save the most energy by replacing T12 fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient T8s. The T8s are expected to save 311,898 kWh and 59 kW per year in the Len B. Jordan Building, while in another building they'll save 250,000 kWh and 48 kW.

Other measures included upgrading the heating and ventilating systems in a parking garage and the Supreme Court building, installing a facility-wide night setback

system, retrofitting a variable air volume controller, replacing inefficient pumps, and installing variable frequency drives.

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## NEEM Program Recognizes Manufactured Home Industry

Every year the top retailers and manufacturers of energy-efficient manufactured homes are recognized by their peers who participate in the Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Home (NEEM™) program in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana.

For the fourth year in a row, Champion Homes in Weiser received awards for producing the highest percentage of energy-efficient homes certified and marketed as Energy Star or Super Good Cents of the five Idaho manufacturers and producing the highest number of NEEM Program homes.

The 2006 awards for top retailer sales of energy-efficient manufactured homes in Idaho were presented to Peter's Homes, Post Falls; Appleway Homes, Hayden; and Jensen Homes, Nampa.



**Senior Energy Specialist Bob Minter (left) presents first place awards to Jeff Chrisman, sales manager at Champion Homes in Weiser. (IDWR photo)**

# Senior Energy Specialist Prepares to Retire

When you hang around the same agency or business for two decades, you're bound to see some changes. Just ask Bob Minter – he's been with the Energy Division for 22 years. Now he's packing his belongings and saying good-bye to his co-workers as he prepares to retire.

By looking at Bob's background, you might guess he's an avid outdoorsman. He earned an Associates Degree in Fish and Wildlife Resources Management from Boise State Junior College in 1966, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and Fisheries Management (1968) and a Master of Science degree in Zoology (1971), both from the University of Idaho in Moscow.

Bob started working for the Energy Division in January 1984 as a Local Government Energy Planner when the division was just a bureau within the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Just three years earlier the Idaho Office of Energy moved from the Governor's office to the IDWR, which was located in the Tower's Building on State Street in Boise. The department moved across town to its Orchard Street location in 1986.

IDWR reorganized in about 1990 and the bureau was upgraded to division status. Bob's title was also upgraded to Energy Specialist. Of course, his responsibilities changed, as did his immediate supervisor.

"It's been interesting seeing all the changes and reorganization involving transformation from a bureau to a division status," says Bob. "We started out with three sections in the bureau, but soon after the reorganization, the division split into efficiency teams. It was a good move for the division and we've accomplished a lot."

In 1992 Bob was assigned to be the lead in preparing the state's Energy Emergency Contingency Plan.

"As the Energy Division's representative for the state's Homeland Security Group Task Force, I feel we need to revisit and strengthen our energy emergency response capabilities in case any type of emergency presents itself," says Bob. "I think our energy conservation and usage policies for all sectors need to be revisited as Idaho's growth occurs. I'm encouraged by recent Legislative decisions to address our energy needs situation and update the State Energy Plan."



**During one of his last official visits to the Champion Home plant in Weiser, Senior Energy Specialist Bob Minter (left) discusses a wall insulation inspection with Andy Stout, Champion Homes quality control manager, and Randy Miller, Energy Star home inspector. (IDWR photo)**

Bob says one of his initial challenges was "attempting to get Idaho local governments to consider and incorporate energy issues within their long range land use and development planning efforts." Bob spent many hours with city planners in efforts to incorporate residential solar access zoning laws and energy conservation policies in their comprehensive land use plans.

As a Senior Energy Specialist, Bob has been involved with the manufactured home industry for several years. He's worked with manufactured home plants and retailers to teach them the importance of building and selling the most energy-efficient products available.

In partnership with Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Home (NEEM™) program, Bob has worked with representatives in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana to implement and market the program (see story on page 13).

The program also offered some "unofficial" perks, which Bob has appreciated. "I've met some very interesting and dedicated people through my work with Idaho local governments and the region's manufactured home industry," Bob says.

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**Energy upgrades were added to the Len B. Jordan Building (foreground) and the Joe R. Williams Building as part of a Capital Mall Energy Performance Contract. The improvements were made in 14 state government buildings. (Photo by Diane Holt)**

Under the contract, Siemens will measure and verify the promised savings each year. "If they do not save as much as we're guaranteeing, we'll write them a check. If they save more, they keep the savings," Naccarato said.

During its monitoring work, Siemens also is responsible for correcting any measures that aren't performing as promised. "The goal is to be proactive in facility management," Naccarato said.

Naccarato said energy performance contracting is a vehicle for public agencies typically not flush with cash. "It allows public institutions to borrow against future energy savings to fund improvements today," he said. "We've guaranteed these units of energy will be saved and factored in a modest utility escalation rate of 3.7 percent annually."

"Since the savings pay for the debt service on the initial funding, we have new and efficient equipment that we couldn't afford otherwise," said Mike Journee, press secretary for Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne. "And we're using a lot less energy."

In July 2005, Kempthorne reissued an executive order, "Energy Conservation Consideration in State Buildings,"

that outlines steps agencies are encouraged to take to save energy.

"By reducing energy expenditures, the State of Idaho can dedicate more money to the services Idahoans depend upon from state government," Journee said. "Or it can be returned to them, which in turn helps stimulate more as they spend."

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"Certainly some of my fondest memories involve seeing the entire state through my work with the programs I've been involved with," says Bob. "I was able to become one of the Governor's earliest members of the Idaho Passport Program by getting my passport book signed by a county representative in each of our 44 counties."

Although Bob's business trips throughout Idaho are ending, he has no plans to stay cooped up in the retirement cabin he and his wife Kathleen built near Cascade, "Spare time? What spare time?" says Bob.

He's already planning his bi-annual wild river self-guided float trip in Alaska with friends and has two Idaho steel-head trips and a two-week elk hunt scheduled. He's also planning a trip with his wife to Alaska in 2007 to visit some of the places he worked when he was with the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau.

If you ask Bob, he's not really retiring, he's just moving on to "more important things," like hunting, fishing, traveling and enjoying his family, including three sons and seven grandchildren. He also plans to spend time applying his educational and sportsman knowledge towards protecting and enhancing the state's wildlife resources.

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(HUD). Sixty Northwest utilities offer cash incentives to homebuyers who purchase NEEM Program homes.

Additional information is available on energy-efficient manufactured homes and the NEEM by calling the NEEM regional hotline, 1-888-355-6277. Online information is available at [www.energy.idaho.gov](http://www.energy.idaho.gov).